

June 22, 1999

hearing and state champions travel to Washington, D.C. in the spring to represent their state in the national finals.

I am proud of this Ohio County team because this is the first time a school from my district has represented Kentucky in the national event. In a time when public cynicism and apathy are high, it is reassuring to know that this program is instilling a sense of civic duty and understanding in our future leaders.

RECOGNIZING THE LADIES AUXILIARY OF THE WEST TRENTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Trenton Volunteer Fire Department. Over the last half-century, the women of this organization have made a tremendous contribution to their community by lending both financial and moral support to the members of the Fire Department.

Founded on June 8, 1949, the Ladies Auxiliary focused from the very beginning on innovative and creative fundraising ventures. The first year, members assisted the firemen with a Block Dance by volunteering as food stand operators and Bingo judges. They also threw a Halloween Party in the fall. By December 1949, the Auxiliary was able to present the Fire Department with a check for \$200.

In the years since, the Auxiliary's yearly donations have grown. The first \$5000 check was presented in 1972, followed by a record \$17,600 check in 1976. Fundraisers including organized trips to dinner shows, pasta dinners, and flea markets have continued to garner large sums in recent years, and the annual Dinner-Dance has become a township tradition. The funds collected over the years have helped ensure that the West Trenton Fire Department can serve the community effectively.

The Ladies Auxiliary has had a long and rich history on the county and state levels. They have marched in the State Fair and at July 4th parades, are a part of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Mercer County Firemen's Association, and have several Life Members who have joined the State Auxiliary. At their 50th Anniversary Dinner-Dance on June 19, they honored three still-active original charter members: Kitty Canulli, Edith Guadagno, and Grace Diesel Wilwol.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the past and present members of the Ladies Auxiliary to the West Trenton Fire Department on their 50th anniversary. Their dedication to the community is to be commended, and I send them my warmest wishes for another successful 50 years.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO WESTHILL MUSIC DEPARTMENT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 22, 1999

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, on April 9, 1999, 220 student performers and chaperones of the Westhill High School Music Department from Syracuse, New York, came to the Washington D.C. area for the "Festivals of Music." This event was sponsored by local corporations to bring schools from around the nation to the District of Columbia. Westhill was one of seven schools to give band and chorus performances in front of three judges. These college professor judges evaluated the groups in writing and listened closely and repeatedly to taped sessions. The Westhill group gave an outstanding performance that day, putting Westhill's Music Department among the best in the country. Thomas Lindemann, Department Leader, said the chorus and band received an "excellent" and "superior" rating, respectively, in both concert performances and the music reading exam. Out of the seven schools, the band came in second. The Westhill chorus came in third. These high marks signify how well these group of students performed based on these national standards.

The Westhill Music Department held their spring band concert on May 25th and the final choral concert on June 2nd.

I am very proud of these young people, who have exhibited discipline, sensitivity, and love of music while representing their school in the very finest Westhill tradition. I am equally proud of the Westhill Music Department, the parents, and administrators who are so supportive of this outstanding group.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 18, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes;

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Conyers' Democratic Substitute Amendment to H.R. 2122, the Mandatory Gun Show Background Check Act. Today, in this sacred chamber, we have an opportunity to address this nation's most pressing problem, gun violence, in a meaningful and effective fashion. We have a mandate from the people to take action that stems the tide of violence that is sweeping across our nation from Washington, DC to Chicago and LA. The biggest victim of this tide of violence is our children. From Chicago's west side to Colorado and over to Georgia, we have felt the pain of lost precious lives. Now, before we lose another precious life, we must take meaningful action.

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Today, we have the opportunity to put in place meaningful gun control legislation, a task that we failed to complete last nite. Lets close the gun show loophole, lets ban the importation of large ammunition clips, lets raise the age to possess a handgun and semi-automatic weapon, lets make sure that every gun is sold with a safety device, lets adopt the Conyers' substitute. Why do we need these protections. Well I'll tell you why, in Chicago we have a gun problem, our children are shooting children. In 1997 firearms were used in over 3/4 of the murders committed in Chicago. What makes this statistic so disturbing is that over half of the persons committing murder were under the age of 21. In 1997 Chicago had 246 murders of people under the age of 21 and there were 290 people under the age of 21 charged with committing murder. Chicago contributes more than its fair share of children to a terrible statistical category: children killed too soon by hand guns, and it must stop. How can we in good conscious let this situation go on. Did you know that since 1969 that firearms are the leading cause of death among African-American youths? For thirty years handguns have been killing African-American youth and we still debate whether or not we need this common sense gun legislation. When will we take this necessary action?

Now is not the time for loopholes in the bill that's trying to close loopholes. No one here is saying that someone can't own a gun, all they are saying is you have to wait, that your background must be checked out, and that children should not have guns. These are simple, straight forward, common sense proposals. Lets do it and make America safer and better. Lets not fail America's children again, lets take this opportunity to the right thing and pass meaningful gun reform.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the McCarthy/Roukema/Blagojevich amendment. Common sense dictates that we, as representatives of the American people, support this measure.

This amendment is not about taking rights away from law abiding citizens. It is about closing a loophole in the law that gives criminals a free pass at gunshows. This amendment would provide law enforcement officials with the same three business days to conduct background checks at gunshows that they are now given when guns are bought in stores. This amendment would go a long way in ensuring that guns stay out of the hands of criminals.

The American people demand action from this House of Representatives. Mothers and